

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Janet Woolum, President

Spring has Sprung and the Friends of the Tempe Public Library is stepping up its efforts to increase fundraising and volunteering to help support library activities in these difficult economic times. We are 270 members strong and contribute approximately 200 hours of volunteer service to the library each month. Through your continued support we have been able to fund community outreach activities, such as helping with the collections at the Escalante Multi-generational Center and the Westside Community Center, purchasing HealthStart Infant Reading Kits, and providing support for the Family Place program at both centers. Our goal is to increase our support with additional funds to keep these great programs going.

Your Board of Directors has been exploring different fundraising opportunities and just recently held a garage sale at Board Member Mark Bartlett's home. The sale netted approximately \$400. We also attended the Martin Luther King Day Celebration where we handed out brochures and sold children's books.

FTPL also will sell children's books at the annual Arizona Book Festival in April.

Planning has begun for the Spring Book Sale, which promises to be another exciting event. The book sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 2003, from 9am-2pm, in the downstairs program room at the library. Once again, members in good standing will get early entry into the sale to get first run at the valley's highest quality used books and videos. The money raised at this sale will help provide support for the Summer Children's Reading Program and other library events.

A special thank-you goes out to super volunteer Marvin Melnick, who is leaving Arizona and moving back to Minnesota to be closer to his family. Marvin has been a member of and volunteer for the Friends of the Tempe Public Library for many years, working to stock the book corner, collecting donations from the book drops, helping with the books sales, and serving on the Board of Directors. We wish him a safe trip and joyful reunion with his family. He will be missed!!!

See **PRESIDENTS** on p.6

ABOVE THE STACKS

**by Teri Metros,
Library Administrator**

Some Thoughts About Overdue Fees

A recent article in the Arizona Republic mentioned the possibility that the Library might increase its standard daily overdue fee. Needless to say, this issue is definitely of interest to library users and I would like to share some perspectives with you on this topic. As anyone can attest who visits on a regular basis, the Tempe Public Library is one of the busiest public libraries in the metropolitan area. During FY 2001-2002, over one million people passed through its doors and library cardholders checked out 1,027,642 items. Usage figures for the current year show that this trend is continuing, with

See **STACKS** on p.2

STACKS, continued from p. 1

an increase in both door count and check-out of materials. The resulting demands placed upon the Library's collection makes it important that policies be implemented that will encourage the timely return of library materials so that they are available to other users. Library overdue fees continue to play an important role in helping us to achieve that goal.

We recently ran a report on our system that revealed some surprises on this topic. The report revealed that there were nearly 11,000 items in our collection that were over three weeks overdue. This led us to the conclusion that the current fee of 10 cents per day for most items might not be providing the incentive that was needed to encourage users to return their materials on time. Our current overdue fee of 10 cents per day has been in effect since 1989. With limited budgets and the fact that the average cost to replace a lost book has increased nearly 30% since 1986, getting our materials back is more important than ever. With that idea in mind, the members of the Library Advisory Board recently recommended an increase in the standard overdue fee to 25 cents a day. Their recommendation will be forwarded to the Tempe City Council who will make the final decision on this issue.

If an increase is approved, we would like to remind our users that the Library's circulation policies and procedures have been de-

signed to make it as easy as possible to check-out materials and to avoid being charged overdue fees. These include:

☑ **Loan Periods:** The majority of items within the Library's collection check-out for twenty-eight days. This is the longest checkout period among local public libraries. Furthermore, an item may be renewed twice if no one else is waiting for it. A library user may have an item checked out for up to eighty-four days without accruing any overdue fees.

☑ **Renewals:** Library users have several options that make it easy to renew checked-out items. They may renew items online twenty-four hours a day via the *My Millennium* feature on our new online public access catalog or by contacting the Check-out Desk during library hours of operation. In the coming months, a new automated telephone system will be implemented that will allow users to renew items via the telephone on a 24/7 basis.

☑ **Hardship Considerations:** In those instances when a user is unable to pay a fee or disputes a fee, our staff have been given the authority to reduce or waive fees. The Library's goal is to encourage use and return of materials within the collection, not to punish its users.

New and Improved Look for the Library Underway

Work recently commenced on a large scale project to replace the carpet and tile in the Library. The lower level, including the Youth Library and the Computer

Access Center was the first area to be addressed. The carpet and tile in this area was very discolored after twelve years of constant traffic. Most

of the work is being accomplished after library hours of operation to minimize the impact on our users. It is hoped that the lower level work will be completed by the first of April—so that our Youth Library is ready for the arrival of the very busy Summer Reading Program. Following the completion of this phase, funds permitting, the plan is to replace the carpet on the remaining two floors.



Friends of the Tempe Public Library Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Tempe Public Library invite you to join them for their spring book sale on Saturday, April 12, 2003 in the Library's lower level Program Room. The sale will begin with a special members only sale from

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The sale will be open to the general public from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Friends' memberships may be purchased at the door. The sale will feature a wide range of materials including children's books, compact disc recordings, and paperback and hardback fiction and non-fiction books at bargain prices. Members of the Tempe Historical Society will also be on hand to sell half-price merchandise from the Tempe Historical Museum Gift Shop including cards, jewelry, toys, and other gift items.

Spring Book Sale April 12

10:00am-2:00pm

FTPL Members 9:00am

Community members who wish to become a member of the Friends may purchase a membership on the day of the sale or join by completing a membership application at the Library or via the Friends Web site at www.tempe.gov/library/friends. The Friends Web site provides complete information on their activities in support of the Tempe Public Library and membership options.

Self-Service Check-Out to Return

Without a doubt, the number one question from both library users and staff has been "When are you going to get the check-out machines?" Self-service check-out has been a very popular service at our library for many years. When the vendor of our old machines informed us that they would no longer support our original machines, we sought out replacement models via an extensive Request for Proposal process. A new vendor was selected by taking into account both cost and recommendations from other libraries using the product. Unfortunately, the units proved to be unsatisfactory and never functioned according to the required specifications. This was extremely frustrating for many of our users who, more often than not, found themselves waiting in long lines at the Check-Out Desk because the units were out of order. After a number of months of failed attempts by the vendor to make them function as promised, they were found to be in default of the contract. The machines were subsequently returned to the vendor and our initial payment was refunded. The good news is that we now have three new machines on order from the manufacturer of our original self-service check-out units. The new units will accept all media formats in our collection, unlike the old

units that could not check-out videos, books on tape, etc. They should be operational in April. We wish to thank our users for their patience and understanding during this challenging time.

Chapter-A-Day Online Book Club

We would like to remind our users about a great library service targeted to those busy readers who often hear themselves saying "so many books, so little time." A great way to learn about new books is to sign-up for one of the library's ten online book clubs. Each day, Monday through Friday, the library e-mails book club subscribers a portion of a book that takes about five minutes to read. Each club typically delivers two or three chapters from a book during the week. If a user likes a selection, he or she can check it out at the library. Each book club offers new books each week. With ten book clubs from which to choose, there's something for

everyone's interests. Patrons can read fiction, nonfiction, romance, business, and titles of interest to teens. They can also listen to audio books in their e-mail.



If you would like to participate, sign-up by visiting the online book clubs Web site at <http://www.chapteraday.com/library/tempe/>

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ YOUR WAY to the BALLPARK!

Summer Reading Club 2003

Time to think bats, balls and books in this summer's reading club **EXTRA! EXTRA! READ YOUR WAY to the BALLPARK!**



Sponsoring this year's reading program are the Friends of the Tempe Library, Tempe Transit, the Diamondbacks and the Arizona Republic. The Friends have generously supplied funds to provide entertainment and books for children who have completed the reading log in addition to prizes. Tempe Transit is giving bus passes to those 6–18 years of age.

Registration for the Summer Reading Club begins **Monday, June 2** and continues through **Thursday, July 31**. Children and/or their parents must come to the library to register and receive their reading log. Participants who track daily reading will earn incentives. Prizes are limited so

children may receive only one reading log during the summer and substitution of prizes may be necessary. The last day to pick up prizes is **Sunday, August 10**. The Arizona Diamondbacks and the Arizona Republic and the Friends of the Tempe Library are sponsoring the Summer Reading Club to encourage kids of all ages, from infants through elementary school, to read and listen to books over the summer months.

Starlight Planetarium

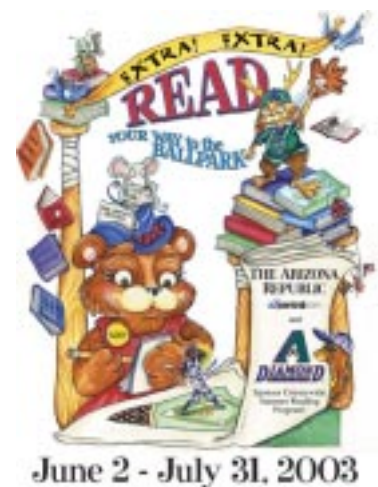
Starlight Planetarium Productions will be presenting eight 45-minute constellation shows at the library for children 6 to 12 years old. Presentations will be on Thursday, June 12 and 26 and July 10 and 24. There will be a 10:00am and an 11:00 am show on each date. **Registration is required.** Registration for the June presentations begins on June 1. Registration for the July programs begins on July 1. Call 350-5522 to register or for more information.

Parents should bring only the registered participant(s) to class. Presentations will also be held at the Escalante Multigenerational center.

GREAT BOOKS MAKE GREAT MOVIES

Teen Summer Reading 2003

If you are in 7th to 12th grade, read on! Beginning on **Monday, June 2**, you can come to the Youth Library and register for the Teen Summer Reading Program. Then use your reading log to keep track of your reading time and return to the library for some great prizes! This year's Teen Summer Reading is sponsored by Harkins Theaters with generous support from Wildflower Bread Company, Phoenix Mercury, Sonic Drive-Ins, and the Friends of the Tempe Public Library. The last day to register for this free program is **Saturday, July 26**. The last day to pick up prizes is **Saturday, August 2**.

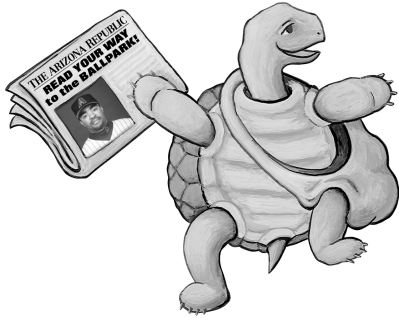


Tempe Public Library

Calendar of Events

Summer 2003

Youth Library



Participants will receive a calendar of free programs upon registration in the Summer Reading Club. Most shows or activities are free and begin at 10:00 am in the lower level Program Room. No registration is required. Sorry, we cannot accommodate groups larger than 10 children.

Wednesday	June 4	Jolly Roger Magic Show
Monday	June 9	Bookbug!: Toddler Storytime: 9:30 and 10:30 am
Wednesday	June 11	Air Major Flying Dog Show
Monday	June 16	"Peter Rabbit" (Great Arizona Puppet Theater)
Wednesday	June 18	Treasure Box Craft
Monday	June 23	Dynomite Dinosaurs: Toddler Storytime: 9:30 and 10:30 am
Wednesday	June 25	<i>Don't Call me Pig!</i> and <i>Lizards for Lunch</i> (Author Conrad Storad)
Monday	June 30	Odessey the Clown
Wednesday	July 2	Double Play Flute and Tuba duo
Monday	July 7	Leapin' Lizards: Toddler Storytime: 9:30 and 10:30 am
Wednesday	July 9	Desert Animal Windsock Craft
Monday	July 14	"Cinderella" (Great Arizona Puppet Theater)
Wednesday	July 16	Reptile Adventures
Monday	July 21	Toot Toot Train: Toddler Storytime: 9:30 and 10:30 am
Wednesday	July 23	Craig Davis Magic & Juggling Showcase

PRESIDENTS, continued from p. 1

It is through your membership and the hard work of our volunteers like Marvin that makes our organization so successful. We hope you continue to support the Friends of the Tempe Public Library by renewing your memberships, attending our fund-raising events, and volunteering your time whenever possible. Our community is better for it!!

Join the Friends!

Applications are available at the library or log-on to our website at:
www.tempe.gov/library/friends

Would you like to receive the newsletter electronically? Please send us your e-mail address at **friendstempe@yahoo.com**

Did You Know?

There are over 60 Internet accessible computers at the Tempe Public Library! Access to the computers is **FREE** and available to all TPL cardholders in good standing. Users who wish to print must purchase a print card (copies cost 20¢ per page for black and white and \$1.25 for color.)



3500 S. Rural Rd. Tempe, Arizona 85282

**Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Tempe, Arizona
Permit No. 144**

Time to renew?

Check the expiration date on your mailing label
